

Agenda and Notes

Interagency climate group meeting on August 9, 2006

Agenda

8:30 - Introductions (All)

8:45 - Governor's Office Update (Kathleen)

9:00 - 9:45 - Agency Updates (All)

9:45 - 10:00 - Break

10:00 - 11:00 Discussion - Agency Budget Proposals and Policy/Legislative Global Warming Priorities for 07 Session and beyond (All)

11:00 - 11:30 Discussion - Other Initiatives We should Consider for 07 (All)

Attendees:

Tony Usibelli, Tony Ifie, Ashley DeMoss, Ron Shultz, Stu Clark, Mia Waters, Tom Schooley, Leslie Stanton, Clint Loughheed, Kurt Unger, Chris Carlson, Stacey Waterman-Hoey, Kirk Cook, Hedia Adelsman, Janice Adair, Kathleen Drew, Sheila Riggs (for Jake Fey)

Notes:

Tony Usibelli –

West Coast Governor's Global Warming Initiative – finalizing annual report, working on next steps. Should be out by end of August. Tony is pushing coordination on biofuels activity (non-corn cartel)

CTED – study on economic impacts of climate change modeled on Oregon study by economists. Draft is internal – plan out by Sept-Oct 06.

CTED transition to Ecology on Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Bringing it up to date. Stacey doing research – CO2 appears to be at 1990 levels due to petroleum coke and aluminum industry shutdown. Needs extensive review on data. Other data not worked up yet. **She's looking for reviewers for input by end of August.** Interested in both tech comments & ideas to present and display data. Should residual fuel be in or not. How should areas split these fuels?

Ron – PSAT –

Climate change and effects on Puget Sound on website. Contracted with UW on this. (Study called "Uncertain Future" now available) Putting together their work plan for 07-09 biennium. Priorities and working with agencies.

Proposing team/council approved priorities on preparing for a changing climate. Decision package will be submitted through Governor's office in next few weeks.

Would also partner on water quality & sustainability re: marine.

Leslie Stanton –

Alternative fuels – support & incentives – E85 stations needed on both sides of state.

Greenhouse Gas Registry needed?

Impacts on human health from climate change should be studied.

Inside the agency – asked to work on offset of travel impact. Carbon calculators all put out different information. Thinking of project to review carbon calculators – which to use. Need to take WA state characteristics into account in the calculations. Working with ICLEI software (sustainability).

Stacey commented better off doing own calculations rather than use a calculator – get better results. All across the state cities and counties want to be able to calculate their area. Pull them in?

Kathleen commented that Boeing may be someone to contact for the calculator group. Private sector may also want to use.

Offsetting GHG – everyone different. Bring in CA and OR to this question.

Mia –

– Federal transportation funding cycle for the Transportation Research Board (part of the National Academy of Science) proposals due in early Sept. Hoping to put together a proposal for state, county, city emission factors – biofuels, fuels, sustainable practices, to make useable tools to show progress. Example of DOT – need to show emissions and factors for commute trip reduction (CTR) reporting. This effort could benefit the state, cities, counties and the private sector involved with CTR.

Mia will send proposal around for comments – **Need back by Sept. 1**

The summary list of GHG activities represented mostly new efforts/concepts. She'll merge her list of top 10-20 WSDOT activities for a full idea of what's they're doing.

Some news –

- Ferries working on issues for fuel efficiencies, cost, routes, speed, vessels
- Wish to better capture benefits from commute trip reduction and Park n Ride Lots – improving GHG with fuel usage & congestion relief. Congestion relief has what benefits? What is impact of speed limits?
- Working with automatic shutoffs for construction equipment where possible
- Assistance needed – future – PS Action Team – dealing with consequences – raising awareness of sea level rise, flash floods, water cycle, tidal effects. How this affects infrastructure and placement, size, etc. Educating consulting firms, contractors, engineers. No forecasts available, only have history. Requirements, RCW to do with consulting history over projections when engineering projects?

As Ecology moves forward with their efforts characterizing water impacts and issues with climate change, it may be useful to remember that changes in water height have affect land ownership (public vs private), and designation of navigable waterways, among other things.

Would like to know what state is going to develop or identified targets or goals, what are they?
Lack of clear understanding may create confusion about role in making decisions. Would like to have more direction.

Leslie – New partnership with Alliance to Save Energy – not sure what project is – some role when cities ask for help to reduce GHG. She'll send bullets created so far.

Ferries using biodiesel – or marine usage of biodiesel – why different... group looking at analyzing problems, quality of bio, chain of custody, lab analysis – 2-3 year study. Not clear what's going wrong on marine applications of bio.

Also looking at issues with bio problems in city fleet.

Interested in discussing GHG registry. Also interested in research on the human health impact of climate change.

Janice – working with Ross & Assoc. on a contract. Smaller group to capture all various state mitigation side – package as a plan. Needs suggestions, ideas, recommendations.

Preparation side – water manager – budget heavy. Sea level rise, water flow, changes in tidal influence, availability of fresh water to basins. Think end up with water analysis to tease out policy decisions and other decisions.

Tom Schooley – WUTC

Pacificorp, as one of the nation's largest users of coal-fired generation, is investigating the feasibility of the sequestration of CO₂. The Columbia Basin basalts of the Pacific NW are being evaluated as potential sequestration sites. PacifiCorp is also looking at integrated coal gasification combined cycle turbines to reduce CO₂ emissions in new generation plants.

Chris Carlson – Started talk on climate change and effect on insurance companies and consumers. Asked insurance co's if they are considering it. Ceres Study regarding climate change risks and opportunities for insurers coming out this month. Got what insurance co's are doing and giving them ideas around it. Problem – loss driven industry – they get focused on losses instead of broader involvement. Trying to train or convince them to look at broader policy issues and how it affects insurance. Traditionally, when carriers are concerned about risk exposure, they will contract or stop writing new business. This isn't a good long-term strategy, so we need to look for other solutions so insurance is available and affordable.

Kirk Cook – Preliminary work needs to be more engaged in all of this due to impacts.

Group of commodities reps on drought to review what effect climate change has on commodities. Look at other state ag. and form baseline for WA. Contribution of agriculture to GHG. (Stacey working to pull out ag. figures) Having milder winters what effect climate change has to grow crops for biofuel.

Ag needs to start internal education for active participation

Biomass – waste materials use – topic to explore?

Tony Ifie – We are seeking market-based solutions such as carbon trading to assist in funding sustained working forests. At DNR, we are working to put a structure on forest

carbon credits market as a way of helping forestland owners to generate an additional income stream that would encourage them to leave the lands in forestry. We are presently working to identify the needs of forest landowners (the sellers in the market) in order to design a market that they will participate in. One challenge we have now is designing a structure to use forest products as part of the credits. A thorn of contention is determining who owns the products carbon credits and preventing double counting of the same credits.

Clint Loughheed – Study forest residue conversion – underway – Ottawa has a technology to convert residue to oil. They can get a 20 year contract for forest residue. Should have study results by Sept.

Rumor has it that Dept of Agriculture is working on making straw into gold.

Ashley DeMoss, Parks- The Seashore Conservation Area boundaries are largely defined by statute. As sea level rises, it will shift state and private ownership boundary lines (DNR aquatic lands moving eastward onto State Park Seashore Area beach lands, and those moving eastward into and across some private property boundary lines). Parks needs to perform a comprehensive review of its real estate, infrastructure, and operations to prepare for climate induced changes. In order to do this, Parks and other state land management agencies (DNR, DFW, Ports, DOT, etc.) need a common state planning standard to use for the amount and timing of sea level rise."

Seattle working on projected sea level rise maps? Estimates will be changing for the worse. Maps don't take into effect tidal surges. Be good tool once finished.

Kathleen – Working on Governor's office position. Update West Coast Governor's Warming Initiative – future directions. Putting together ideas and filling in the gaps. Cap n trade effective policy for WA?? Transportation and emissions need to be our focus. Energy is a focus but not top priority. Lots of work to do. Governor wants logic of goal and how to achieve it. Needs WA state plan specific to WA state.

Leslie would like Greenhouse Gas Chart on energy bills for consumers. Need to give citizens message about what the state is doing.

WSU has a Climate Change and Rural Development Group but it has no funding. So far only have a website. May be good time to request budget.

Amphibian die-off – projections of all amphibians being dead 10 years out. Public education and outreach. Fish and Wildlife needs to be in the group.

Ecology – asking for money for position working on climate – need sustainable funding for this.

CTED – support current work on climate change.

How to engage local govt and businesses.

How to begin climate change into planning and infrastructure investment, growth management.

PS Action Team – next steps from report. Pulling together others to educate, for preparation. Help pay for efforts to bring to common table.

Ecology – Mitigation – budget – water and green buildings

Kathleen – Public Health impacts study – budget?

Legislative side - Inquiries

Registry

Climate change

Time tables and targets

Energy use in Govt facilities owned and leased

Gov facilities producing own power

Federal level –

Solicitations out for energy – part to bioenergy research

State ferries have an earmark

Other -

West Coast Diesel Collaborative looking for diesel innovations, all sectors which may also have greenhouse gas emission reduction co-benefits. The next call for projects will be in January 2007.

Hybrid diesel – Paccar developing – not sure status

EPA Smartway program – Cascade Sierra Solutions currently using Oregon State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) low interest loans – truck freight sector. This is an area of interest for Washington, but there are questions about eligibility based on the way the RCW is written.

Carbon Market – ecosystem service market

Follow-up -

Notes out by end of week. Please send back additions or changes.

Mia will send out TRB research funding proposal for alternative/biofuels emission factor development. Needs comments on her proposal by Sept. 1.

Ecology – facilitated process with Ross & Assoc. Keep us posted.

Add people from Fish & Wildlife and from Health

Try to coordinate budget requests. Send budgets out to share.

GHG emissions comments to Stacey by end of August.

Password protected forum website for this group?? \$50 per month – Sharepoint. Mia will look into this further.

Next meeting – end of October –

Talk bills, budgets, check-in, and presentation on economic impact analysis,

Possible topic for future technical discussions:

- Carbon Sequestration
- Carbon Calculators
- Biofuels
- Carbon Trading/Markets/Cap and Trade
- Impacts on public health
- Economic Impacts of Global Warming